

The Broadcast Flag is designed to take away any and all fair-use and replace it with a world where corporations control what we can and cannot do.

I have two VCRs. I record television shows, movies, and anything else that I am interested in. I edit small bits and pieces of these things together to create indexes and summaries of my videotape collection. And I can dig up, at a moment's notice, a specific show or movie to loan to a friend or watch in my own home on any of my televisions. I often transport my collection among my different residences. I do not need the broadcasting industry's "permission" to do these things. And I do not want their permission.

Beyond the stifling limitations that the Broadcast Flag would impose on consumers like me, what good would it accomplish? "Defeat piracy?" Anyone who believes that digital piracy can be defeated in such a manner is at best uninformed, and at worst an idiot. All this flag would do is make all legal consumer electronics impose artificial limits on their users. A whole market will spring up for illegal or modified electronics, which do not respect this "Broadcast Flag". Of course it will become illegal to discuss or distribute information about these devices. Maybe the Federal Government in all its confused intentions will put a stiff prison sentence on the crime of discussing electronic equipment.

But my point is, piracy is already illegal, and that is not stopping anyone. If you escalate the point of illegality, from the piracy action itself to the device that permits it, you have solved nothing. Those who wish to break the law will still break the law. Only those who have legal uses for such a device will be penalized.